

**CHAPTER NO. 404**

**SENATE BILL NO. 851**

**By Harper, Herron**

**Substituted for: House Bill No. 745**

**By Mike Turner, Moore, Langster**

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4; Title 49, Chapter 7 and Title 68, Chapter 11, relative to fire safety.

WHEREAS, in the event of a fire emergency, time is critical in saving lives; and

WHEREAS, elevators are often used by firefighters to transport personnel, equipment, and victims of smoke and fire; and

WHEREAS, when elevators sense smoke they go automatically to their primary floor whereupon only special keys may operate such elevators; and

WHEREAS, finding the keys necessary to operate the elevators can take precious time away from the efforts of firefighters to suppress the fire and save lives; and

WHEREAS, if, at a minimal cost, elevator keys were kept in area accessible only to firefighters then the safety of residents would be greatly enhanced; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 68, Chapter 11, Part 2, is amended by adding a new section thereto, as follows:

Section 68-11-259. (a) Not later than one hundred fifty (150) days after July 1, 2005, each hospital, recuperation center, nursing home, residential hospice, home for the aged, residential HIV supportive living facility, assisted-care living facility or ambulatory surgical treatment center licensed under this chapter, except those operated by the United States government, must ensure that an emergency keyed lock box is installed next to each bank of functioning elevators located on the main level. Such lock boxes shall be permanently mounted seventy-two inches (72") from the floor to the center of the box, be operable by a universal key no matter where such box is located, and shall contain only fire service keys and drop keys to the appropriate elevators. General standards for the design of such boxes shall be approved by the Department of Labor and Workforce Development not later than thirty (30) days after this act becomes law; however, such standards must be consistent with all applicable building and life safety standards governing the facility.

(b) Failure to comply with the provisions of this section shall be a Class C misdemeanor, and shall be punishable by a fine only of not more than two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00).

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 7, Part 1, is amended by adding the following as a new, appropriately designated section thereto:

§ 49-7-135. (a) The board of trustees of the University of Tennessee and the board of regents shall adopt uniform rules requiring the placement of an emergency keyed lock box in all student dormitories and other university housing with functioning elevators. Such emergency keyed lock box must be installed by each bank of elevators in student dormitories and other university housing. Such lock boxes shall be permanently mounted seventy-two inches (72") from the floor to the center of the box, be operable by a universal key no matter where such box is located, and shall contain only fire service keys and drop keys to the appropriate elevators. General standards for the design of such boxes shall be approved by the Department of Labor and Workforce Development not later than thirty (30) days after this act becomes law; however, such standards must be consistent with all applicable building and life safety standards governing student dormitories.

(b) Failure to comply with the provisions of this section shall be a Class C misdemeanor, and shall be punishable by a fine only of not more than two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00).

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 3, Part 11, is amended by adding a new section thereto, as follows:

Section 4-3-1114. (a) Not later than one hundred fifty (150) days after July 1, 2005, each state-owned public building under the department's control, including the state capitol and capitol annexes, must ensure that an emergency keyed lock box is installed next to each bank of functioning elevators located on the main level. Such lock boxes shall be permanently mounted seventy-two inches (72") from the floor to the center of the box, be operable by a universal key no matter where such box is located, and shall contain only fire service keys and drop keys to the appropriate elevators. General standards for the design of such boxes shall be approved by the Department of Labor and Workforce Development not later than thirty (30) days after this act becomes law; however, such standards must be consistent with all applicable building and life safety standards governing the facility.

(b) Failure to comply with the provisions of this section shall be a Class C misdemeanor, and shall be punishable by a fine only of not more than two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00).

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2005, the public welfare requiring it.

PASSED: May 28, 2005

  
JOHN S. WILDER  
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

  
JIMMY NAIFEH, SPEAKER  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED this 17<sup>th</sup> day of June 2005

  
PHIL BREDESEN, GOVERNOR